

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 9406

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034020

FOLL REPEAT STATE 034020 ACTION USUN INFO GENEVA 14 FEB 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

REF: A) USUN 411; B) USUN 418; C) NAIROBI 1266; D) STATE

26978; E) NAIROBI 1144

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1. DEPT GREATLY APPRECIATES USUN'S REPORT TRANSMITTED REF A WHICH, TOGETHER WITH REF C, CLEARLY INDICATES TIME HAS COME FOR US TO FISH OR CUT BAIT ON QUESTION STRONG'S SUCCESSOR AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW LINGERING UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING EXTENT AND NATURE OF SYG'S COMMITMENTS AND DEGREE OF SUPPORT HE MAY HAVE MOBILIZED, ESPECIALLY FROM LATINS AND AFRICANS, DEPT BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL CLARIFY SITUATION DIRECTLY WITH SYG BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION AND ENDORSES MISSION'S INTENTION REVERT TO MATTER WITH SYG HIMSELF.

2. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST USUN SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT WITH SYG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UPON HIS RETURN FROM CURRENT EUROPEAN TRAVELS. MISSION SHOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM SYG ON EXTENT TO WHICH HE HAS COMMITTED UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP TO LATINS, AND, IN PARTICULAR, EXTENT TO WHICH HE HAS CON-  
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SULTED PERUVIANS AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WITH

REGARD TO DE CUELLAR'S CANDIDACY. IN ITS DISCRETION, MISSION MAY TELL SYG THAT WE HAVE HAD SOME INDICATION THAT DE CUELLAR CANDIDACY IS NOT FULLY ENDORSED BY LATIN THEMSELVES (REF D) ALTHOUGH WE UNABLE ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH REPORTS BASED ON REACTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS OR GOVERNMENTS.

3. MISSION SHOULD ALSO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM SYG ON EXTENT OF AFRICAN BACKING FOR LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE, BEARING IN MIND REPORT REF D WHICH INDICATES AFRICANS MAY NOT BE SOLIDLY BEHIND LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE. WE ALSO AWARE INFORMALLY STRONG DESIRE IN SOME KENYAN QUARTERS FOR WEO CANDIDATE IN ORDER MAINTAIN INTEREST OF MAJOR DONORS IN UNEP.

4. IN VIEW GROWING INDICATIONS UNEP DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOLBA IS ACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP OF DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE (IN ADDITION ANY ASPIRATIONS HE MAY HAVE FOR UNEP JOB) MISSION SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, DRAW OUT SYG'S FEELING ON THIS POINT.

5. DEPT RECOGNIZES THAT SYG NO DOUBT CONSIDERING FUTURE OF UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IN CONTEXT OF OTHER HIGH LEVEL UN-SYSTEM POSTS PRESENTLY UP FOR BID, INCLUDING HEAD OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND FAO SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION MISSION ABLE TO DEVELOP REGARDING SYG'S THINKING ON THESE POSITIONS. IN PARTICULAR, WE WISH LEARN HOW HE ASSESSES POSSIBLE DEVELOPING LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDACIES FOR THESE POSITIONS AND HOW SUCH CANDIDACIES MIGHT AFFECT HIS NOMINATION OF LATIN FOR UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP.

6. AS INDICATED REF D AND CONFIRMED REFS C AND E, SPECULATION ABOUT AND MANEUVERING OVER UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IS AFFECTING ENTIRE TOP ECHELON IN UNEP WITH MORALE REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT UNEP SECRETARIAT. THIS IS SOURCE OF DEEPENING CONCERN TO US, AND UNDOUBTEDLY TO OTHER MEMBERS UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT NOT ONLY ON PREPARATIONS FOR AND CONDUCT OF THIRD SESSION OF UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL BUT ON FUTURE OF ENTIRE UNEP PROGRAM ITSELF. IN ITS DISCRETION, MISSION MAY NOTE TO SYG OUR CONCERN ON THIS SCORE AND URGE HE BEAR THIS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MIND IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS RELATING TO UNEP.

7. MISSION SHOULD CLEARLY POINT OUT TO SYG THAT UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IS A WEO POST, AND IF SYG STILL HAS ROOM TO MANEUVER, WE CONVINCED WEO WANT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT CANDIDATE, EVEN THOUGH US ITSELF IS NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER A CANDIDATE AT THIS TIME.

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